

COUNTRY

GERMANY, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY: Poland

DATE DATED: 1 Dec 1954

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Economic Information on
Stalinogrod (Katowice) and Vicinity

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1. Polish industry seems to be short of everything, but shortages of all types of valves, particularly high pressure valves, are most critical. Steel tubing from 300 centimeters to 1 centimeter in diameter is in extremely short supply, and the supply of copper tubing for the installation of control and regulating equipment is very short.

2. Polish technicians are generally inadequately trained, and their work is further impeded by lack of proper hand tools and equipment. Polish technicians are so hard pressed for tools that they were unable to restrain the urge to convert the tools of foreign technicians to their own use. Polish plant engineers receive an average of 1,000 Zloty monthly, overtime included, exclusive of the yearly bonus when their respective plant has been successful in fulfilling the production plan. Polish assembly technicians receive more than the plant engineers for whom they work (or 1,200 Zloty monthly, overtime included). Mechanics receive about 800 Zloty a month. A certain apathy is most apparent in all the workers; as a result, foreign technicians find themselves in the surprising role of trying to get the Polish technicians to be more productive so that installations can be completed.

3. Before installing any equipment in a Polish plant, the plant engineer, working with the foreign technician in charge of the particular installation, establishes a date by which the new installation is to be completed. For each day that the foreign technician is able to cut off the entire time necessary to effect the installation, he receives a bonus of 100 Zloty.

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4. A new Russian-manufactured high pressure needle valve, capable of withstanding 200 atmospheres pressure, manufactured for 10-mm tubing, was found to be of excellent quality.
5. There were no reports of strikes or work stoppages. There was a rumor that early in 1953 a strike had been planned by the workers in a coal mine in Stalinogrod, but the attempt had failed.
6. The number of employees at Huta Baildon was estimated to exceed 2,000. New buildings are under construction there.
7. Covered trucks were observed transporting forced laborers through the streets, with two armed guards standing on specially constructed small rear platforms of the trucks.
8. Pierwsza Fabryka Lokomotyw (Fablok) was apparently engaged only in the manufacture of narrow-gauge railway locomotives and trucks; the plant had at least 500 employees, working on three shifts; production of lorries seemed to be at a rate of 20 to 25 per 12 hours.
9. A camp containing between 400 and 500 labor troops is located directly across from the large coal mine in the northwest part of Stalinogrod, in the vicinity of Huta Baildon.
10. The Hotel Robotnica, former German labor battalion barracks, is now in a very run-down condition and houses a large number of workers and families employed in the large coal mine immediately adjacent to it, in the west-northwest part of Stalinogrod, about 1,000 meters west-northwest of the intersection of Chorzowska highway and Zamkowa street.
11. Official Polish agencies occupy several blocks of buildings in the southeast part of Stalinogrod, approximately 1,000 meters east-southeast of the main railway station. Both the occupants and the nature of these offices is generally unknown to the inhabitants of the city.
12. A restaurant located in the middle of the hypotenuse of the triangle formed by the 3rd of May and Stawowa streets is being operated exclusively for the benefit of the UB, with no one else frequenting the restaurant.
13. A railroad employee in Stalinogrod reported that soon after the 17 June demonstrations in East Berlin three trainloads of Germans had been transported through Stalinogrod.
14. The following civilian delegations were guests in the Monopol (ORBIS) Hotel, Stalinogrod, during September:

French - delegation of about 30 or 40
Chinese - delegation of about 80 or 100
A Rumintian theatrical group
Russians - a group of about 12 or 15, all very well dressed

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1. Comment: probably means the Dzierzynski Railroad Locomotive Plant, formerly called The First Railroad Locomotive Plant or Fablok, located in Chrzanow (Q51/Y85).

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